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EXAMINER

BUTLER, MICHAEL E

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3653

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Application No.: 09/014076
Art Unit: 3653

Reply Brief Acknowledged

The supplemental reply brief filed 10/27/2004 has been entered and considered.

RE: Issue II: As indicated in the Final Rejection, Examiner's Answer, and Response to Remand from the Board for Examiner Queries, claims 38-41, 43, and 45-53 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over Pearson '232 in view of Meador et al. However, in concurrence with applicant-Pearson '232 in view of Meador et al. was not used in a rejection of claim 44.

RE: Issue III: In contrast to applicant's assertion in the Supplemental Reply Brief- as indicated in the Final Rejection, Examiner's Answer, and Response to Remand from the Board for Examiner Queries, claims 38-53 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over Pearson '232 in view of Blechl.

The application is being forwarded to the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences for decision on the appeal.

Michael E. Butler

Michael E. Butler
Patent Examiner

[Signature]
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